

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3611

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FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, XG (WALLACE, GOVERNOR GEORGE)

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE'S OCTOBER TRIP TO EUROPE

REF: STATE 234152

1. AMBASSADOR LODGE'S ASSISTANT MADE PERSONAL CALL TODAY ON CHIEF OF PAPAL AUDIENCES OFFICE TO FOLLOW UP ON LETTER OF SEPT. 18 AND SEVERAL TELCONS REGARDING THE REQUEST OF GOVERNOR WALLACE FOR AUDIENCE ON OCTOBER 18. IN THIS MEETING, WE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON THE GOVERNOR, NOTED THAT HE IS A DECLARED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND RELAYED INFORMATION IN REFTEL REGARDING HIGH IMPORTANCE GOVERNOR ATTACHES TO AUDIENCE WITH POPE.

2. AUDIENCE OFFICER TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF POINTS MADE. WHILE HE REPEATED ESSENTIALLY PREVIOUS COMMENT THAT PRIVATE AUDIENCE WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY DEFINITE DECISION ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16. (FYI--AUDIENCE OFFICER STATED THAT IN VIEW OF HOLY YEAR HE HAS ORDERS TO TURN DOWN ALL REQUESTS FOR PRIVATE AUDIENCES WITH POPE, WITH EXCEPTION OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS.)VOLPE

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